

Bergan Mercy had a 47 percent decline. Others have less, St. Joe's, 33 percent decline and the med center about a 12 percent decline in patient days. We're seeing change, radical change in how we handle health care, trying to contain health care cost, trying to maintain quality. But the impacts on this state and this nation are tremendous. Senator Schmit made a point about, privately, about people paying more for medical care than they do property taxes. We're all worried about property taxes in this Legislature, but you'll find most every family paying more, far more, for their medical care for that family than they are talking about property taxes and we're seeing those costs go up dramatically. Now for this old Legislature talking about the impacts of health care costs, you'll find an indigent care bill on Final Reading that is a \$12 million figure. You'll find in the budget an increase of \$4 million this year and then an additional 3 million more next year for state employee health insurance and those figures are both \$2.5 million short of the increase that is really needed, so we are talking in fact of about a \$6.5 million increase in what is necessary to cover our health insurance for our state employees this year and about a \$10 million increase for next year, no small change in cost. That is just additional cost let alone the base cost of what we're paying for health insurance. The Medicaid budget is going to go up \$21 million this year and another \$12 million on top of that next year for a \$33 million increase the next fiscal year, \$50 million of increased cost over the course of the next two years on Medicaid alone. The CHIP program is a program that we've talked about recently. They are proposing a 60 percent increase in premiums for the CHIP program to cover those individuals unable to be insured privately. We have seen the University Hospital proposal for a 40 to \$50 million increase in expenditures for capital improvements there and we've discussed that matter and the list goes on and on and on. We are facing tremendous impact to the taxpayers of this state on health care cost, so we're finding the state, through taxpayers paying these additional costs, you're seeing employers through additional costs on employee benefits paying these additional costs. You were seeing a tremendous resurgence of increase in health care costs rising across the state and the nation. Now we did in the middle eighties try and deal with this because in the early eighties we did have an increase similar to what we're experiencing at this time and we came back with a litany of alphabet soup solutions. We had DRGs, HMOs, PPOs, PROs and CON was part of that. The solution to the health care cost problem is a multifaceted one,